

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] FIG. 1 depicts a preferred embodiment of an upper electrode assembly 10, which comprises an upper electrode preferably including an inner electrode member 12, and an outer electrode member 14. Herein, the inner electrode member 12 is also described as a “second member” and as a “first part”; and the inner electrode member 12 and the outer electrode member 14 are also described as comprising a “second member.” A lower electrode 15 is shown positioned below the upper electrode. In an embodiment, the inner electrode member 12 is preferably a cylindrical plate. The outer electrode member 14 can be continuous member (e.g., a poly-silicon member, such as a ring), or can alternatively include multiple segments (e.g., 2-6 segments). In embodiments including a multiple-segment outer electrode member 14, contiguous segments preferably overlap each other to protect the underlying joint, such as an elastomeric joint, from exposure to plasma.

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] The backing member preferably includes a backing plate 18, which is co-extensive with the inner electrode member 12, and an outer backing ring 22. Herein, the backing plate 18 is also described as a “first member” and as a “second part”; and the backing plate 18 and backing ring 22 are also described as comprising a “first member.” The backing member is preferably made of graphite. The top surface 16 of the inner electrode member 12 is preferably bonded to a bottom surface 19 (or “first surface”) of the backing plate 18 (see FIG. 1), and the top surface 20 of the outer electrode member 14 is preferably bonded to a continuous

backing ring 22. The backing plate 18 also has a top surface 21 (or "second surface"), as shown in FIGS. 1 and 6.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] The backing plate 18 and backing ring 22 are attached to a top plate 24. Herein, the top plate 24 is also referred to as a "third part." The top plate 24 is preferably temperature controlled by flowing a heat transfer fluid (liquid or gas) through it. The top plate 24 is preferably made of a metal having suitable thermal conductivity, such as aluminum, or an aluminum alloy. The top plate 24 preferably provides an electrical ground and a heat sink for the electrode. Preferably, a vacuum seal is provided between the top plate 24 and the backing plate 18 and/or backing ring 22. For example, a sealing member, such as a sealing ring 26, can be located between the backing plate 18 and the top plate 24 to minimize gas leakage through an interface between the inner electrode member 12 and the outer electrode member 14.